

**5171. Misbranding of "Fritch's Vegetable Liniment" and "Fritch's Vegetable Soap." U. S. \* \* \* v. John A. Fritch. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$20 and costs. (F. & D. No. 7520. I. S. Nos. 12087-k, 12088-k.)**

On September 13, 1916, the United States attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district an information against John A. Fritch, St. Louis, Mo., alleging shipment by said defendant, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, on or about December 12, 1914, from the State of Missouri into the State of Illinois, of quantities of articles labeled in part: "Fritch's Vegetable Liniment \* \* \*" and "Fritch's Vegetable Soap \* \* \*," which were misbranded.

Analysis of a sample of the "Vegetable Liniment" by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed the product to be essentially an alcoholic solution of chloroform, turpentine, camphor, capsicum, oil of cloves, methyl salicylate, and free ammonia.

Analysis of a sample of the "Vegetable Soap" showed the product to consist essentially of a hard, white, perfumed, coconut-oil soap with a citronella-like odor.

It was charged in substance in the information that the liniment was misbranded in that certain statements on its label and included in the circular or pamphlet accompanying it, falsely and fraudulently represented it as a remedy for fever and ague, and congestive chills, as a panacea for all aches and pains; as effective for restoring perfect health by removing the cause of the disorder, and for reducing all swellings promptly and permanently, and as an absolute cure for rheumatism, rheumatic gout, sciatica, neuralgia, stiff joints, sprains, burns, scalds, bed sores, boils, carbuncles, bronchitis, catarrh, cold in the head, hay fever, la grippe, asthma, canker, sore mouth, croup, whooping cough, headache, hoarseness, ulcerated sore throat, quinsy, swollen glands, tumors, pleurisy, lame back, earache, sore eyes, kidney and bladder diseases, dysentery, bloody flux, cholera morbus, and painful menstruation, and as effective for arresting all inflammatory conditions and reducing all swellings promptly and permanently, for relieving the most excruciating pains instantaneously, for curing ear discharges and diseases of the ear and hearing when used in connection with "Fritch's Vegetable Soap," and as a cure for acute rheumatism, chronic rheumatism, and sciatic rheumatism, when used in connection with "Fritch's Vegetable Soap," and as a cure for felons and inflammation of the kidneys, when, in truth and in fact, it was not.

It was charged in substance in the information that the soap was misbranded in that certain statements on its label and included in the circular or pamphlet accompanying it falsely and fraudulently represented it as a wonderful cure in the treatment of scald head, eczema, scrofulous sores, tetter, barber's itch, and all humors of the skin and scalp, and effective for preventing falling hair and all scalp diseases, for preventing ulceration and gangrene in the most extensive and deepest burns, in curing chronic ulcers, and as the most reliable and only sure means for curing stubborn festering sores which extend almost completely around the limb, when, in truth and in fact, it was not.

On September 22, 1916, the defendant entered a plea of guilty to the information, and the court imposed a fine of \$20 and costs.

CARL VROOMAN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*